AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of revised claims with a status identifier in parenthesis.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method of selecting a reference picture for processing a field macroblock, comprising:

selecting at least one reference picture for processing a field macroblock from at least one reference picture list using reference picture index information, each selected at least one reference picture being a field.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

processing the field macroblock using the selected at least one reference picture.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the reference field is one of a top field and a bottom field.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

forming the at least one reference picture list.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the forming step comprises:

initializing the at least one reference picture list; and

reordering the at least one reference picture list.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein each selected at least one reference picture is a field of a reference frame.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein if the reference picture index information is an even index number, then the selected at least one reference field has a same field parity as the field macroblock.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein if the reference picture index information is an odd index number, then the selected at least one reference field has a field parity different from the field macroblock.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein if the reference picture index information is an odd index number, then the selected at least one reference field has a field parity different from the field macroblock.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein if the reference picture index information is an even index number and the field macroblock is a top field macroblock, then the selected at least one reference field is a top field.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein if the reference picture index information is an even index number and the field macroblock is a bottom field macroblock, then the selected at least one reference field is a bottom field.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein if the reference picture index information is an odd index number and the field macroblock is a top field macroblock, then the selected at least one reference field is a bottom field.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein if the reference picture index information is an odd index number and the field macroblock is a bottom field macroblock, then the selected at least one reference field is a top field.

14 - 21 (Canceled).